

REMARKS

Claims 11-19 and 21-29 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 11-17 and 21-25 are amended, claim 20 is canceled and claim 29 is added. Support for the amendments to claims 11-17 and 21-25 and new claim 29 can be found, for example, at paragraphs [0019], [0020], [0022] and [0067] of the originally filed specification. No new matter is added.

I. Claim Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §112

The Office Action rejects claims 11-28 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite for the terms "thin" and "substantially." By this Amendment, claim 20 is canceled, rendering its rejection moot. As to the remaining claims, Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection. However, in order to advance prosecution, by this Amendment, claims 11-16 and 21-25 are amended to delete "mirror-thin" and recite "mirror," and claim 17 deletes the term "substantially." Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

II. Claim Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §102

A. Claim 20

The Office Action rejects claim 20 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Aonuma (U.S. Patent No. 6,398,854). The Office Action also rejects claim 20 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Pitts et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,547,432). By this Amendment, claim 20 is canceled, rendering each rejection moot.

B. Claims 11 and 12

The Office Action rejects claims 11 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) or (e) as being anticipated by Tratzky et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,902,761) ("Tratzky"). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

By this Amendment, claim 11 recites "independently and simultaneously spraying the mixed liquid and said ammoniacal silver salt aqueous solution onto an object to be coated immediately after mixing the aqueous solution of caustic soda and the aqueous solution of the reducing agent." Tratzky does not disclose at least this feature.

Tratzky teaches, "100 ml of an ammoniac caustic soda solution, 100 ml of a reduction solution and 100 ml of an ammoniac silver nitrate solution are produced, [and] mixed in a predetermined sequence in a special mixing vessel into a mirror-coating solution." See Tratzky at col. 3, lines 54-58. There is no further description of the mixing in a predetermined sequence. Thus, Tratzky does not teach "independently and simultaneously spraying the mixed liquid and said ammoniacal silver salt aqueous solution onto an object to be coated immediately after mixing the aqueous solution of caustic soda and the aqueous solution of the reducing agent," as claimed. Therefore, Tratzky does not teach each and every feature of claim 11 and, thus, does not anticipate claim 11. Claim 12 depends from claim 11 and, thus, is also not anticipated by Tratzky. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

III. Claim Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

The Office Action rejects claims 11-19 and 21-28 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Aonuma. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

By this Amendment, claim 11 recites "independently and simultaneously spraying the mixed liquid and said ammoniacal silver salt aqueous solution onto an object to be coated immediately after mixing the aqueous solution of caustic soda and the aqueous solution of the reducing agent." Aonuma does not teach or suggest at least this feature, and one of ordinary skill in the art would have had no reason or rationale to develop the silver mirror film forming method of claim 11 with the disclosure of Aonuma.

As described in the present specification, in the claimed silver mirror film forming method, "independently and simultaneously spraying the mixed liquid and said ammoniacal silver salt aqueous solution onto an object to be coated immediately after mixing the aqueous solution of caustic soda and the aqueous solution of the reducing agent" provides unexpected results. Because the caustic soda solution, which plays a role (the starting function) to draw out a performance of the reduction solution (IIb) as the reducing agent, is mixed with the reduction solution immediately before use, the silver mirror film has good durability, but does not suffer any color change, even when a coated film is formed. See specification at paragraphs [0015], [0043] - [0046] and [0101].

Aonuma does not teach or suggest the order to timing of spraying mixed liquid and said ammoniacal silver salt aqueous solution onto an object to be coated. Thus, one of ordinary skill in the art would have had not reason or rationale to develop a silver mirror film forming method comprising "independently and simultaneously spraying the mixed liquid and said ammoniacal silver salt aqueous solution onto an object to be coated immediately after mixing the aqueous solution of caustic soda and the aqueous solution of the reducing agent," as claimed.

As a result, claim 11 would not have been rendered obvious by Aonuma. Claims 12-19, 21-28 and new claim 29 variously depend from claim 11 and, thus, also would not have been rendered obvious by Aonuma. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

IV. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 11-19 and 21-29 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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